

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Economic Information, Canton

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1. Canton commodity prices are falling as merchants convert goods into cash to meet the late March deadline on the purchase of Victory Bonds. Communist food and trade corporations are also dumping goods on the market in an effort to stabilize prices; they intend to buy back the goods for resale at a profit later. There is an assessment of 10 percent for compulsory purchase of Victory Bonds on all foreign currency converted to jen min piao legally in banks, which has caused many people to resort to the black market for conversions.
2. The South China Trading Company, Canton,* was scheduled to take control of all industrial fuels and gasoline on 1 April 1950. This would establish a government monopoly, with all private trading in these products forbidden.

25X1A [REDACTED] and referenced reports.

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